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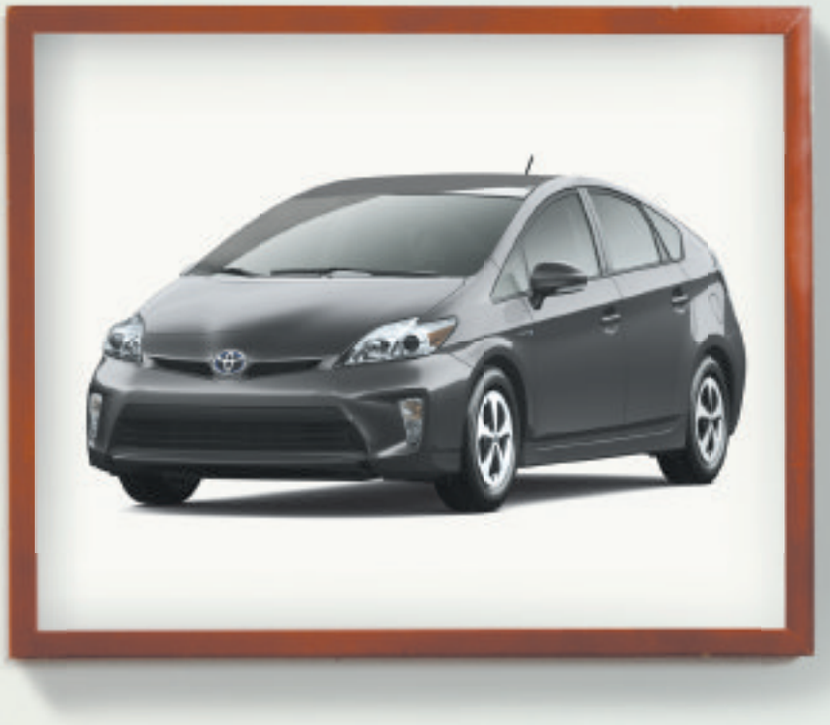

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Blasting into the finals

Two Canadians have made the cut for the final countdown in Metro's Race for Space contest

PAGES 6 & 7

SMITH PUTS BOOT TO CONTROVERSY

WILDROSE LEADER TELLS ALL-CANDIDATES FORUM SHE'S PRO-CHOICE, PRO-GAY RIGHTS

PAGE 4

REGINA metro®

Thursday, April 12, 2012

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Strip show to protest provincial liquor law

Planned as political fundraiser. Original show scrapped after raising hackles of some Liberal party members

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

A show featuring stripping, pole dancing and burlesque — but no alcohol — has political roots that go back to the last provincial election, organizers say.

Naked If I Want is a strip show and protest against Saskatchewan's liquor law concerning erotic performances, planned for May 4 in Saskatoon.

Devin Ens was the provincial Liberals' policy chair in the last election and his friend Sandy Buckner initially planned a strip show as a fundraiser.

The idea was for the Liberals to host the stripping event and oppose the alcohol-control regulation that prohibits establishments from serving liquor when the entertainment involves nudity, a strip-tease performance or a wet-clothing contest — but the party shut it down.

"The members didn't like it, there was no official policy passed, so it got shut down," Buckner said. "I was devastated."

Buckner, who performs as a drag king with the stage name Stevie Blunder, has since decided to hold the show and give the proceeds to support the Saskatoon Slut Walk and Consentfest. Both events are dedicated to "ending victim-blaming and making sex-positive attitudes where we really need them — here in Saskatchewan," she said.

Ens and Buckner are hoping the protest show also helps change the liquor law. But after the members of the provincial Liberals put the kibosh on the first planned show — and some senior Liberal threatened to tear up their membership cards — Ens hasn't seen any political will in the province to change the law, he said.

"I thought it would be an easy sell because it's what we call a 'two percenter' in politics," Ens said, referring to an issue about two per cent of the electorate will base their vote on, but the majority will disregard. "We were getting less than one per cent of the popular vote to begin with, so two is really good for us."

Ens believes the law needs to change.

"For me, it's that's it's a moralistic attitude disguised as a public-safety issue," he said. "It's one more issue to rail against in conservative Saskatchewan."

"Enough's enough," added Buckner.

As for the crime that can go hand-in-hand with strip clubs, it isn't the erotic performances that are the problem, both said.

Devin Ens, left, and Sandy Buckner are hosting a Naked If I Want strip show May 4 to protest a Saskatchewan liquor law. JESSICA SMITH/METRO

"You only punish the guilty," said Ens. "If there's a shady operation going on, you should shut it down, not ban the entire business model."

Buckner added: "It's also safer for the strippers to have a staffed bar and a ride home if they need it, than the current situation of them going to a private party by themselves."

In preparation for the show, Buckner will be organizing the performers — including strippers from KJ's Party Favors who will be volunteering their time and tips.

Naked If I Want will be held May 4 at the Cosmo Senior Centre. Doors at 8 p.m., show at 9. To get on the guest list, email mybodymydance@hotmail.com.

'Unique' jurisdiction

No appetite for change

Saskatchewan is a "unique" jurisdiction in preventing licensed establishments from hosting any entertainment involving nudity, stripteases and wet-clothing contests, says David Morris, spokesman for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming (SLGA).

The regulation goes back decades, but the issue came back into the spotlight recently with events that may or may not contravene the law.

Last month, the SLGA began investigating a charity fundraiser involving Chippendales dancers.

Burlesque shows, in which there is no actual nudity, are lumped into the same category.

"If the purpose of the entertainment is to remove clothing in a sexually titillating manner, then that constitutes a striptease even if there isn't full nudity," Morris said.

The Lingerie Football League, on the other hand, does not run the risk of contravening the law, Morris added.

There are no current plans to change the law, Morris said.

"The minister has said there are more pressing priorities for government," he said. "So SLGA will continue to enforce this type of entertainment in liquor-permitted establishments across the province."

The Saskatchewan Liberals also have no current plans to oppose liquor laws but the party has not set its position on the matter, said interim Leader Greg Gallagher.

The party, he confirmed, did halt plans to oppose the law and host a fundraiser with strippers in the last election.

"The government has a duty to protect the public. Erotic entertainment districts tend to be breeding grounds for bad things, exploitation, crime, even murder, and I think governments have an obligation to keep its citizens safe and healthy, perhaps in spite of themselves," he said.

The NDP is currently in internal discussion about whether the SGLA policy needs to be reviewed, a spokesperson said.

JESSICA SMITH/METRO
WITH FILES FROM ALEX BOUTILIER

1 NEWS

Saskatchewan's injured take less time off: WCB

On the job. Highest number of injuries were in health care, while the number of claims outpaced new employees in manufacturing

CARRIE-MAY SIGGINS
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Although 2011 was the ninth straight year that the province saw a decline in time-loss injuries, the overall injury rate has gone up, according to the Saskatchewan Workers Compensation Board (WCB).

The province's time-loss injury rate (the rate of injured workers not able to return to their next regularly scheduled day of work) dropped from 5.2 per cent to 3.05 per cent of the total workforce. Phillip Germain, the executive director of prevention at the WCB, says that this is in part due to an increase in employers using workers for a "modified duty."

"If you've hurt your back and you're a welder," says Germain, "they may have you doing something different, that doesn't continue to hurt your back."

But while the time-loss injury rate has improved from 2010, the total injury rate did not. It rose to 8.73 per cent from 8.7. The industry with the highest number of injuries is health care, including positions such as nurses, nurses aids and support services such as cleaning staff. Many of the injuries are ergonomic, meaning back problems.

The two industries that saw a significant increase in claims were commercial construction and trucking. "A lot more industries experienced a lot more employment," says Germain.

But when the WCB looked for the reasons behind the increase in the total injury rates, the answer came from a surprising source.

"When we looked at why the total injury rate went up," says Germain, "and not just the volume of claims but the injury rate, it was primarily associated with the manufacturing industry."

Solution

"It's a matter of going in and assessing how that work gets done and trying to adjust it so that the person can work more efficiently."

Phillip Germain, WCB executive director of prevention, on designing work stations so employees can work more effectively.

A worker on the job tries to keep it safe when dealing with live wires. CONTRIBUTED/ WCB

On the web

A whale of a birth

A baby beluga is coming to Georgia Aquarium. The world's largest aquarium has a rare beluga whale pregnancy, the first mammal to conceive at the downtown Atlanta attraction since it opened in 2005. Watch the video at metronews.ca

Science or sci-fi?

Fact or fiction? Could you blow up the Death Star? Or teleport, like in Star Trek? Those and other myths explained, as scientists discuss fact versus science fiction. More at metronews.ca

Mobile news

Global warming just got even less sexy. Scientists are blaming global warming for higher levels of carbon dioxide in the Pacific that are damaging oyster reproduction. Scan the code for the story.

2013 reassessment. Property-value increase may not alter taxes: City

The 2013 reassessment of property values in Regina will go ahead as planned.

On Wednesday, the city's executive committee unanimously approved staff's timeline for the reassessment. Property owners will be notified in August about their new values, with formal notification being mailed in November.

According to city staff, the property values have changed "significantly" from the last assessment in 2009. But the report and councillors were at pains to stress an increase in property values does not necessarily mean an increase in property taxes.

"Reassessment speaks to the change of values over time, but the application of taxes in the mill rate will determine how high your taxes are going to go," said Coun. Michael Fougere after the meeting. "So the pie is the same, but who pays it and where in the city pays it, is different."

The city raised the mill rate by 3.9 per cent in the 2012 budget, passed last December. Fougere could not say if the city is considering another increase for 2013. "That is a wholly different exercise, because we look at what we need to run the city," Fougere said. He did allow that some residents could be facing higher taxes, however.

ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

Timeline

4 years

Regina is required by provincial legislation to reassess property values every four years.

Housing starts surge by almost 300% in Regina, report says

Saskatchewan's urban housing starts spiked in March 2012, according to a report issued Wednesday by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

The amount of new housing construction increased by 53 per cent from last March, the report states, and for the first quarter of 2012 starts were up 33.8 per cent from the same period in 2011.

Multiple-unit starts, construction on structures such as apartment buildings, rose by 107.2 per cent in Saskatchewan. In Regina, overall new starts jumped by whopping 298.4 per cent. "A strong economy is bringing more people to our province, driving a demand for new housing," Enterprise Minister Jeremy Harrison stated.

"The availability of jobs and business opportunities is attracting people from all over the globe and is bringing our expatriates home. More and more families are choosing our province as the place to start a life.... Strong housing starts are good news for the construction industry and good news for Saskatchewan's real-estate market."

CARRIE-MAY SIGGINS/METRO

Job applicants must prove language skills

Minister of Immigration Jason Kenney THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some immigrants hoping to say hello or bonjour to Canada are now going to have to prove they actually know how to say it.

Starting this July, certain people immigrating under the provincial-nominee program will face language testing.

The tests will be mandatory for those applying for semi- and low-skilled jobs and will assess listening, speaking, reading and writing abilities.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney made the announcement in Saskatoon. The province of Saskatchewan took in over 5,300 immigrants under the provincial-nominee program in 2010.

The program allows provinces to cherry-pick immigrants they want to meet labour needs but Kenney says there's concern that it's also being used to unite families.

He says he intends to work more closely with provinces to ensure that stops.

The new requirement is one of a number of changes to the immigration system discussed in last month's federal budget.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U of R responds to student union allegations

Too much? Student pres blasts university over salaries

NATASHA TERSIGNI
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University of Regina Students' Union president Kent Peterson released a statement on April 5 where he called out University president and vice-chancellor Vianne Timmons, saying last year Timmons "raked in nearly $40,000 in bonuses, on top of an annual salary of $337,020."

"Should our president be making $337,020 a year, considering the fact that they cut a number of academic programs recently?" said Peterson, commenting on his statements made in the release. "Some programs here at the U of R could be facing a nine per cent tuition-fee increase."

Although salaries for Timmons and other U of R administrators are not made public, Peterson said he found out by asking the president, then getting the complete information from the university's human-resources office, with Timmons' permission.

Paul McLellan, who is entering his second three-year term this year on the board of governors, where all university financial decisions are made, said that Timmons actually makes less than other presidents at comparable universities in Canada.

""Vianne is somewhat on the low scale," said McLellan. "If you ever figured out what she is making per hour she is severely underpaid."

Peterson, who also sits on the board of governors, said Timmons' salary shouldn't be compared to those at other universities but to the current financial situation at the U of R.

"We should compare her salary to what the actual funding situation is here at the university," Peterson said.

"The University of Regina asked the provincial government for a 5.8 per cent increase in their operating grant based on tuition increasing five per cent. What they actually got was a 1.86 per cent increase."

Putting salaries in perspective:

Some salaries from university presidents from 2011-2012. Not all provinces require universities to make salaries public. These figures do not include bonuses.

- **University of Waterloo.** David Johnson $1,041,881
- **York University.** Mamdouh Shoukri $480,030
- **University of Alberta.** Indira Samarasekera $479,000
- **University of Guelph.** Alastair Summerlee $440,590
- **Dalhousie University.** Tom Traves $393,264
- **University of Regina.** Vianne Timmons $337,020

Vianne Timmons. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The U of R is currently facing a $4-million operating deficit for next year, and the administration's solution appears to be tuition increases and cutting academic programs.

McLellan said the U of R runs "a lean and mean" financial operation.

"Like any organization, whether there are spending cuts or not, we look hard at all spending and we look at it all the time. We hold these people to budgets, they are tough budgets and always have been," said McLellan.

Peterson said the closed-door culture that the administration has created allows it to keep spending.

Earlier this year, the U of R board of governors meetings received media attention when they locked out students and refused to make their meetings public.

McLellan said that the board has talked about making meetings open in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

"One thing we are a little cautious about is time management. Open meetings tend to be very onerous to manage; they can take twice as long."

Hannim Nur, who is the current URSU vice-president of operations and finance, will be taking over as URSU president once Peterson's term is over at the end of April.

Nur agrees with Peterson and will continue to put pressure on the administration to cut spending.

Kent Peterson, University of Regina Students' Union president, said administration cuts should be implemented so students don't have to take the brunt of the financial hit. NATASHA TERSIGNI/FOR METRO

Quoted

"Students should not be the only people that bear the brunt of those costs."

Hannim Nur, incoming URSU president, referring to the provincial government cutting education funding.

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Listen to 94.5 Jack FM at 7:40am to play $1000 Minute. Answer 10 questions correctly in 60 seconds and win $1000. This clue will be an answer for one of the questions in tomorrow's game.

Wildrose leader says she's pro-choice, pro-gay rights

Wildrose social policies

Redford's response

Premier Alison Redford
JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Alison Redford says rival Danielle Smith's attempts to assure voters she doesn't hold hard-line beliefs on social issues doesn't provide much clarity.

Redford says it's hard to tell whether the Wildrose leader's affirmation that she's pro-choice and pro-gay rights are those of the leader, the party or the caucus.

The PC leader says it doesn't take away from the fact she hasn't ruled out a citizen's-initiated referendum on funding abortion if her party is elected April 23.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Clearing the air. Smith has faced criticism for failing to completely rule out a referendum on funding abortion

Wildrose Leader Danielle Smith moved to snuff out a controversy surrounding her beliefs on social issues by affirming she is pro-choice and pro-gay rights.

"When our members elected me they knew they were electing a candidate that was pro-choice and pro-gay marriage," Smith said Tuesday at an all-candidates forum in her Highwood riding in Okotoks, Alta.

"The only way we're going to be able to become a mainstream, big-tent conservative party capable of forming government is to focus on the issues that matter to Albertans. If I am elected premier, a Wildrose government will not be legislating in areas of morality."

Smith has faced criticism in recent days for failing to completely rule out a citizen's-initiated referendum on funding abortion if her party is elected April 23.

However, she has stressed that she won't legislate on it, and she doubts that such a referendum would be allowed to proceed because a successful vote to de-list abortion would violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Smith has also been criticized for her party's position on letting the courts decide conflicts around so-called conscience rights.

Critics have charged that Smith has avoided disclosing her personal beliefs on the issues to protect her party's conservative base of support.

Smith told reporters after the two-hour debate that she may have misjudged public reaction to the issues that she says were obviously being pushed along by the Progressive Conservatives.

When asked if she thought her comments clarifying her position would put the matter to rest, she said probably not.

"I think what you see normally when a conservative challenger comes up, you see this very commonly that these kinds of issues are brought up to fear monger," she said.

"We saw it with Preston Manning, with Stockwell Day, we saw it with Stephen Harper, so it actually doesn't surprise me that it has come up this election but it does disappoint me."

Smith's beliefs may turn out to be a surprise to the Conservatives, who have suggested in recent days that the right-wing Wildrose is the party of old, white guys determined to resurrect regressive social policies.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snuffing out controversy

"If I am elected premier, a Wildrose government will not be legislating in areas of morality."
Wildrose Leader Danielle Smith

Wildrose Leader Danielle Smith hammers a heel onto a pair of cowboy boots as factory manager Antonio Juarez looks on during a campaign stop in Calgary on Wednesday. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Turbulence! MacKay flies into more personal attacks

As the furor over the F-35 fighter jets escalates, the opposition Liberals say Defence Minister Peter MacKay doesn't know his file. And the calls for his resignation are getting nastier. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The calls for Defence Minister Peter MacKay to be fired over the auditor general's scathing report on F-35 fighter jets have become louder and nastier.

The opposition Liberals say MacKay doesn't know his file and pointed to a flub Wednesday in Halifax where the minister referenced the wrong statistical table in trying to make his case over the conflicting numbers associated with last week's bombshell audit.

Liberal House Leader Marc Garneau says MacKay is either incompetent or "not too bright."

The personal attack followed claims that the Conservative government lied over the cost of the multibillion-dollar program by not including roughly $10 billion in regular, ongoing operational expenses.

The Defence Department was accused of hiding the truth by auditor general Michael Ferguson, who says — had operational costs been included — the real cost of the F-35 program would be more like $24.7 billion, instead of the reported $14.7 billion.

The inclusion of ongoing operational expenses is a long-standing disagreement between the military and the auditor.

NDP defence critic David Christopherson said federal Treasury Board guidelines stipulate that such figures should be spelled out for public consumption.

"It's not that the $24.7-billion figure was wrong. It was that (the Tories) didn't want that number out there because then they would have to defend it," Christopherson declared.

MacKay said Tuesday that from now on the Defence Department would clearly disclose those numbers in future procurements — a potentially mind-blowing proposition for military planners who will be asked to project the costs of salaries and fuel decades into the future.

Internal Defence documents show that the Conservative government plans to spend just over $51.4 billion on capital purchases between now and 2028.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tori Stafford trial

Forensics expert reveals the one-in-150-trillion clue

Blood determined with near certainty to be Victoria Stafford's was found on the door of the car belonging to the man accused of killing her, court heard Wednesday.

A mixture of blood from at least two different people on the rubber moulding of the back passenger side door on Michael Rafferty's car was found to contain DNA matching the eight-year-old girl's profile, court heard.

The profile was compiled using her parents' DNA, one of Tori's teeth and a hair from a lice comb, forensic biologist Jennifer McLean testified in London, Ont.

The probability that the female blood on Rafferty's car door was not Tori's, that a randomly selected person would coincidentally share the same DNA profile, is one in 150 trillion, she said.

Toronto forensic experts also testified about testing done on several items seized from Rafferty's home and car.

Rafferty is alleged to have kidnapped Tori outside her Woodstock, Ont., elementary school on April 8, 2009.

With his then-girlfriend Terri-Lynne McClintic, he is alleged to have driven the Grade 3 student more than 100 kilometres away to a rural area, raped her and killed her.

Rafferty has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

McClintic is already serving a life sentence after she pleaded guilty to first-degree murder.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michael Rafferty has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault and kidnapping.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Midair emergency

Bomb-threat jet combed for clues

A Korean Air jet that made an emergency landing at a Vancouver Island military base was inspected Wednesday.

The Boeing 777, with 149 passengers, diverted after a bomb threat.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING PRESENTED BY SCOTIABANK

GET CASH BACK ON EVERYDAY PURCHASES

SINGLE PARENT WITH KIDS

Maureen, 42, is a single mom living in Halifax with her two children, Sandra, 8, and Billy, 12. She rents a three-bedroom apartment close to the Public Gardens and not far from the medical centre where she works as office manager. Her kids can walk to school, and although she has a car — she uses it for her weekly grocery shopping and for driving the kids to practices — Maureen takes public transportation to work. She's always watched her money and looks for good value from every dollar she spends.

Maureen has an annual household income of $45,000. Some months she lives pay cheque to pay cheque but "I have a budget, and I stick to it. Along with all the monthly expenses, I'm saving for the kids' education, and every summer we travel west to visit family in Winnipeg."

She uses her *Scotia Momentum*® VISA Card to pay for a lot of the everyday purchases she makes such as gas, groceries and drugstore purchases.

The *Scotia Momentum*® VISA Card gives her 2 per cent cash back on everyday purchases at gas stations, grocery stores and drug stores, as well as on recurring bill payments. It also gives 1 per cent cash back on all other eligible purchases. The cash back payout is automatically deposited into her savings account every November. While there's an annual fee of $39, Maureen has worked out the cash back she gets on purchases — and it's worth it.

"It makes sense for me to use the card because I get cash back on gas, groceries and other things that I have to buy anyway," says Maureen. At the same time, she likes to have the credit card as a safety net and tries to pay the balance every month.

Scotia Momentum® Cash Back Calculator

Maureen's profile:

Maureen uses her *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card to pay for about $885 worth of purchases a month. Some fixed costs, such as rent, are not payable by credit card and therefore not included in these calculations.

Grocery Store	$0 — 200 — 400	$ 300
Gas Station	$0 — 200 — 400	$ 100
Drug Store	$0 — 200 — 400	$ 75
Recurring Bills	$0 — 200 — 400	$ 90
Other	$0 — 200 — 400	$ 320
	Total Monthly	**$ 885**

Maureen's Estimated Annual *Scotia Momentum*® Cash Back

Maureen has a *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card (the card below on the left). Here's a look at the cash back her monthly purchases add up to with her card — and a comparison with what her cash back would add up to if she had the *Scotia Momentum*® No-Fee VISA card (the card on the right).

Scotia Momentum® VISA*

2%	$135.60	
1%	$ 38.40	
Total Cash Back		**$ 174.00**

Scotia Momentum® No-Fee VISA*

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.5%	$ 19.20	
Total Cash Back		**$ 87.00**

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Apply today at scotiabank.com/momentum
1 You will earn 2% Cash Back on the first $25,000 you spend annually at merchants classified by VISA as Grocery Stores & Supermarkets, Drug Stores & Pharmacies, Service Stations, Automated Fuel Dispensers and Recurring Payments (Merchant Codes: 5812, 5411, 5541 & 5542). Sometimes there are separate merchants located on the premises of these merchants but are classified by VISA in another manner, in which case this added benefit will not apply. Recurring payments are defined as payments made on a monthly or regular basis automatically billed by a merchant. Earn 1% Cash Back on purchases made after you have reached the 2% $25,000 annual max., and on all other purchases. Cash back is not awarded for cash advances, Scotia® VISA cheques, credit vouchers, payments, purchase returns, card fees, interest charges or service/transaction charges.
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Making final orbit in Race for Space

Metro English Canada's finalists for Metro's Race for Space are competing against 14 others from around the world for a chance to be launched into space. The winner — to be selected by an international panel of judges — will be announced April 27.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO IN HALIFAX

KIRBY

'OUTLANDISH'

Will Kirby grew up dreaming of flying to Mars to search for life on the Red Planet.

Thanks to Metro International's Race for Space contest, he's one step closer to his goal. Kirby is Canada's co-finalist for a chance to fly into space.

Kirby says he saw the contest in the paper and decided to take a shot. He then pressed his friends and family to back his entry.

As the votes grew, the undergrad biology student planted himself in public places on the Dalhousie University campus in Halifax to have loud conversations with friends about the contest, and about how he needed online support.

"I began to think, Hey, this is actually possible," he says. "Over the next few days, I did a lot of arm waving at Dalhousie University."

Kirby, 23, was born in Ottawa, raised in Acton, Ont., and moved to Halifax to study. His father has a PhD in chemistry, and childhood walks were filled with discussions of quantum physics. "I always had a big interest in science, mainly because of him," he says.

The idea of actually being in space awes him. "I would try to make an emotional, inspiring speech, but I don't know if I'll just be like, 'Daaaaarrrr,'" he laughs.

Each Metro country is submitting finalists, and a jury will pick the winner April 27. The actual flight would happen in 2014.

Even if he falls short in the Race for Space, Kirby hopes to make it off Earth one day. He plans to get his PhD in astrobiology, the study of the potential for life on other planets, and has the "outlandish" goal of becoming an astronaut.

"The ultimate goal is to get to Mars and be one of the first scientists who discovers extraterrestrial life," he says.

"I can fight as hard as I can to get as close to my goal as possible. If it's not in the stars, then I can say I did my best."

JON TATTRIE/FOR METRO IN HALIFAX

On the web

Read Kirby's entry at metronews.ca/features.

BUBBLES

'REALLY COOL'

We've all come to know and love the quirky character Bubbles from the Canadian TV show Trailer Park Boys. Behind the big glasses, kitten obsession and signature frown is Mike Smith, a man who has loved space and rocketry since he was five years old.

Since March 5, applicants across 22 countries have been narrowed down, leaving Smith to be Canada's co-finalist for a chance to fly into space.

"The whole experience of going through the training and learning about the space vehicle, the build up to it, would be amazing," says Smith.

Smith, 39, grew up in Nova Scotia and studied English at St. Francis Xavier University.

If he wins, he plans on making a documentary, recording the process leading up to the flight. Smith says the documentary could inspire youth to become involved in space exploration.

The avid Rush fan says, if allowed, he would bring music with him into space.

"It would be really cool to listen to Cygnus X1 in space." The Rush track is a psychedelic blend of rock, ambient sound effects and metal. Smith says he would also love to bring his beloved Conky, the ventriloquist puppet, with him for the trip.

"Some friends and family have been telling me I'm nuts to get into a space vehicle. They have opinions about if it's a good idea to shoot yourself into space," says Smith, who's more than excited at the prospect of space travel.

DELIA MACPHERSON/ FOR METRO IN TORONTO

On the web

Read Bubbles' entry at metronews.ca/features.

‘Hello, Earthlings!’ Metro reporter says from ‘space’

Trying space travel on for size. Metro Holland’s Jeroen van Wieringen spends the day at a space-flight simulator facility

JEROEN VAN WIERINGEN
Metro World News

Our reporter Jeroen van Wieringen gets inside the SXC flight simulator. SXC

“And on the left you’ll find a sickness bag,” Mark, a technician from Space XC, says, concluding his instructions before he closes down the spaceship’s cockpit.

I nod bravely, but secretly I die a thousand times. I have every reason to. It’s not every day that I am flying 3,500 kilometres an hour, up to 103 kilometres in the sky — all a part of becoming an astronaut.

You may be scratching your head and thinking, “Astronaut?”

Yes, but in truth a virtual one. I’m sitting in a facility called Desdemona in the Dutch village of Soesterberg.

Here, you’ll find the only simulator in the world that can literally turn in every direction. Because of extremely good projections in the cockpit, the user — in this case, me — thinks he’s sitting in a real spaceship.

“All right, Jeroen, just press the red button when you are ready,” the “pilot” Harry says calmly.

“No, don’t!” the scared one inside me thinks. “Go for it!” screams the daredevil in the same body. And that last one wins.

I’m being pressed into the seat as the world around me is passing me by faster and faster.

“More than 200 kilometres an hour ... and liftoff.”

Thanks, Harry. As if I haven’t noticed that myself already.

I see land below me, clouds next to me, stars above me. The continuous noise of the rocket engines is banging in my ears. But then — silence.

The engines are shut down, the enormous pressure has been lifted. Weightlessness, that’s how it feels. Yuri Gagarin, I’m just like you!

A big smile appears on my face and my eyes are looking in all directions as fast as they can, just to miss nothing of the wonderful world around me.

“So right now, can I call myself a virtual astronaut?” I hear myself asking.

“Yes, now you are, because you just crossed the zone of 100 kilometres, the boundary between our atmosphere and outer space,” Harry says enthusiastically into my headset.

Hello, Earthlings!

However, going up means coming down again as well.

I know what comes next — they explained it to me. It seems like about three times my own weight, about 250 kilograms, is trying to crush me.

Although I knew it was coming, it takes me by surprise. Blood rushes down, my head feels lighter. I pinch my hands and put pressure on my legs to fight it. It barely helps. If this goes on much longer…

But it doesn’t.

“Welcome back, this is the right time to have a relaxed final part of the flight,” Harry says. “Well done.”

And — to be honest — I agree with him. Especially when I see the empty sickness bag next to me.

That down-to-earth feeling

It takes me by surprise. Blood is rushing down, my head feels lighter. I pinch my hands and put pressure on my legs to fight it. It barely helps. If this goes on much longer...

Jeroen van Wieringen during his return to Earth.

Commercial space flights

Heading for next frontier ‘a life changer’

Michiel Mol has been dreaming of going to space since he was eight-years-old.

Influenced by science-fiction movies and by watching the space race put the first man on the moon, he’s always wanted to experience the galaxy first-hand.

“It’s all because of something inside of us human beings,” Mol tells Metro.

“We want to go further and find the next frontier.”

The model of the Space XC space station in Curaçao. SXC

Now, Mol may be able to make his and the dreams of many others come true.

He’s the CEO and partner of Space XC, a company that will be sending people to outer space on its spacecraft starting in 2014.

Previous space travellers have been known to pay exorbitant amounts of up to $50 million US to get to the International Space Station.

Space Adventures, based in Vienna, Va., is offering a 90-minute spacewalk and five-day stay on the ISS for $15 million — but the flight isn’t included.

“You’re looking down on the seven billion people on Earth. It’s really a life-changer,” Mol says.

MICHELLE CASTILLO/ METRO WORLD NEWS

Online

For the full Race for Space package, visit metronews.ca/features. Additional features include:

- New York designers best known for dressing Lady Gaga and Rihanna give us their take on a new spacesuit.
- Neil deGrasse Tyson of New York’s Hayden Planetarium reviews Angry Birds Space.
- Businessman Gregory Olsen dishes on being a space tourist.

Bare facts. Melissa's nude maid service is really cleaning up

Police in a conservative Texas city are keeping close tabs on a young entrepreneur's recently opened cleaning service that offers nude maids.

Lubbock police Sgt. Jonathan Stewart said the owner of Fantasy Maid Service of Lubbock doesn't have a permit to operate a sexually oriented business and officers are watching for any violation, which would bring a $2,000 US fine.

But owner Melissa Borrett insists she's not operating such a business.

Customers pay $100 an hour for one maid or $150 an hour for two maids, and no touching is allowed, she said.

"I run a maid service," the 26-year-old entrepreneur said.

"We really just clean houses. These girls are not performers. They're maids."

So far, Borrett said, business has been good and she is now busy interviewing to hire some more maids.

At present, she has three of them on staff.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Little miracle

'Stillborn' baby found alive

An Argentine mother fell to her knees in shock after finding her baby alive in a coffin in the morgue 12 hours after the girl was declared dead.

Analia Bouguet named her newborn Miracle Light.

The girl, born three months premature, was in critical but improving condition Wednesday in the same hospital where the staff pronounced her stillborn.

On Tuesday Rafael Sabatinelli, the deputy health minister in the northern province of Chaco, announced that five medical professionals have been suspended pending an official investigation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Out of darkness, nine miners

It could have been a tomb. But miner Javier Tapia, wearing sunglasses to thwart the unaccustomed glare and covered in a blanket, sees daylight for the first time in six days. Tapia was one of nine Peruvian miners — aged 23 to 58 — who were trapped for six days in the Cabeza de Negro gold and copper mine in Yauca del Rosario, Peru, after a cave-in. Rescuers saved them after building a reinforced tunnel by removing tons of soil and rock.

JOB ROSALES/PERU'S PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trayvon Martin case

Zimmerman arrested, faces murder rap

The neighbourhood-watch volunteer who shot 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was arrested and charged with second-degree murder in Florida Wednesday.

George Zimmerman, 28, could get up to life in prison if convicted in the slaying of the unarmed black teenager.

The move came after months of mounting tensions and protests across the United States.

Zimmerman, whose father is white and whose mother is Hispanic, has asserted since the Feb. 26 killing in Sanford, Fla., that he shot in self-defence after the teen attacked him.

Martin's family argued Zimmerman was the aggressor.

The shooting brought demands from black leaders for Zimmerman's arrest and set off a furious nationwide debate over race and self-defence that reached all the way to the White House.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. sues Apple, publishers over e-book pricing

Publishing. Markups have cost consumers over $100 million since April 2010, attorney general says

The U.S. Justice Department and 15 states sued Apple Inc. and major book publishers Wednesday, alleging a conspiracy to raise the price of electronic books they said cost American consumers more than $100 million US in the past two years by adding $2 to $5 to the price of each e-book.

Attorney General Eric Holder said executives at the highest levels of the companies conspired to eliminate competition among e-book sellers. Justice's antitrust chief Sharis Pozen said the executives were desperate to get Amazon.com, marketer of the Kindle e-book reader, to raise the $9.99 price point it had set for the most popular titles, which was substantially below their hardcover prices.

The federal government reached a settlement with three of the publishers, Hachette, HarperCollins and Simon & Shuster. But it will proceed with its lawsuit in federal court in New York City against Apple and Holtzbrinck Publishers, doing business as Macmillan, and the Penguin Publishing Co. Ltd., doing business as Penguin Group.

Connecticut and Texas, two of the 15 states filing a separate complaint, reached agreements with Hachette and HarperCollins to provide $52 million in restitution to consumers, using a formula based on the number of states participating and the number of e-books sold in each state. Other states in the case may sign onto the agreement.

Holder told a Justice Department news conference on Wednesday that "we believe that consumers paid millions of dollars more for some of the most popular titles" as a result of the alleged conspiracy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Price point

- Since launching the Kindle in 2007, Amazon has made a point of offering bestsellers for only $9.99 US.
- Apple's iBookstore has yet to become a major force, but publishers believe the new price model has reduced Amazon's market share.

Eye on the (very) small screen

The HTC Evo 3D smartphone is shown in San Francisco on June 21, 2011. Canada's big telecom companies have scooped up television stations for more content, but so far small numbers of consumers are watching live sports, news and other shows on their smartphones. When you look at it as a percentage of all TV watched, viewing television on smartphones is certainly well under one per cent, said Deloitte Canada analyst Duncan Stewart, who noted that screen size is a big consideration when it comes to how consumers view content.

ERIC RISBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 99.58¢ (-0.01¢)

Natural gas: $1.991 US (-0.11¢)
Dow Jones: 12,805.39 (+89.46)

TSX 12,026.76 (+91.47)

OIL $102.70 US (+$1.68)

GOLD $1,660.30 US (-40¢)

Social networking

New changes to Google Plus

Google is tweaking its social network, Google Plus, to make it easier to use and to distinguish it from rival Facebook.

The most visible change is a new navigation ribbon with icons for the most-used features, such as games, photos and your personal profile.

The changes, announced Wednesday, are designed to help Google Plus adapt more easily to growth. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Investment

Canada's banks a safe haven: Moody's

Canada's banks are collectively the soundest in the world, according to Moody's Investors Service, which has recommended the financial institutions to jittery global investors.

The New York-based agency rated all of Canada's big banks at double-A2 or better in a report Wednesday, higher than bank rankings in the United States, Europe and other regions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

OFFICE MANAGER

Reporting to the Sales/General Manager, Metro Regina, the right candidate will carry out a range of administrative and operational tasks related to the daily operations of the business in the Metro Regina operation. As well as provide operational and executive support to the Sales/General Manager, Metro Regina and any additional administrative support as directed.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

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- Oversee the monthly purchases of office supplies and send required accruals to Metro English Canada
- Recommend and manage office furniture purchases, office supply purchases and all maintenance issues/requests
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- Deal with complex queries and complaints, by email, phone and in person
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REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:

- 2-3 years of demonstrated success in a similar role
- Great organizational and time management skills
- Outstanding communication skills
- Intermediate knowledge of Microsoft Office - Word, Excel & Outlook
- Attention to details and thoroughness in the execution of tasks
- Must be a team player with a great, and we mean great, sense of humor

IInterested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than April 20, 2012. PLEASE QUOTE: "Office Manager - Regina" in the subject line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Metro Regina is seeking an individual to achieve regional targets for print & online and other performance metrics by developing new business.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Manage and grow an assigned retail sales territory
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- Creatively negotiate rates
- Sell a portfolio of Metro branded products

REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:

- Post secondary education in a related field
- 3 years experience in sales/media sales
- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications
- Creative, efficient, flexible & detail oriented
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Proven track record in profitable selling

IInterested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than April 20, 2012. PLEASE QUOTE: "Sales Representative - Regina" in the subject line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

LET THE REAL HOCKEY SEASON BEGIN

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

What with the latest news involving nuclear weapons and dictatorships, it will be paramount to check up on those things when the Stanley Cup playoffs are over.

But for now, let's focus on what's important. Sixteen teams are vying for the world's most famous bird bath/pudding bowl in a bid to take it away from *my* Boston Bruins, who won last year in a victory that I have recounted three or four times (5,000, tops).

Like many journalists, my empathy button is worn down after years of overuse. I recently had a completely dispassionate conversation with an editor about whether a person can be "partially disembowelled." I believe I was eating a sandwich.

But confront me with the NHL playoffs and, well, this is *emotional*. This is life and death.

That might sound ridiculous if you're not a sports fan, but I'm not alone. We live in a country where our government was completely unapologetic for a $10-billion discrepancy in the costs of fighter jets, but the Toronto Maple Leafs apologized in full-page newspaper ads for their poor season.

Heck, if this government owned the *Winnipeg* Jets and increased ticket prices by $293 (the $10 billion broken down to each Canadian), Manitobans would lay siege to Ottawa. And you can bet the government would be apologizing like a theatregoer trying to get to his mid-row seat.

Just sayin'

We live in a country where our government was completely unapologetic for a $10-billion discrepancy in the costs of fighter jets, but the Toronto Maple Leafs apologized in full-page newspaper ads for their poor season.

Long column short, hockey is serious business, which is why my yearly Stanley Cup playoff predictions are so hotly anticipated. They were completely accurate last year, as far as you know.

And here they are!

- "Because it's the cup" commercials, which are aimed at people who don't watch hockey, will air only during hockey.
- If Glenn Healy is watching, every goal will be "unacceptable." If Greg Millen is watching, every goal will be "absolutely no chance for the goaltender." If they both watch the same goal at the same time, the universe will collapse in on itself.
- Every fan whose team loses to one of the eventual Stanley Cup finalists will consider that third place and argue that it shows how close they were to winning.
- Players will be asked, several times, if scoring the first goal is and/or was important. Not once will the player look at the reporter and say, "How much do they pay you exactly?"

And those are my predictions. I'm also picking Boston and Pittsburgh to meet in the Eastern Conference final, which would keep me busy until June. If Leafs/Oilers/Flames/Habs fans could keep an eye on North Korea and the Conservatives during that time, that'd be great.

Remember to keep your head up at all times.

Playoffs making a splash

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Stanley Cup

Replica doubles as fountain in N.Y.C.

To kick off the NHL Stanley Cup playoffs, a 21-foot, 6,600-pound replica of the Stanley Cup trophy was unveiled in Times Square in New York on Wednesday.

The replica trophy doubled as a water fountain that residents and visitors can drink from — much to the amusement of these young fans.

GETTY IMAGES

Vancouver

The playoffs began Wednesday night with three games, one of which saw the Vancouver Canucks hosting the Los Angeles Kings.

- With memories of last year's melee etched into the collective consciousness of Vancouver, local business owners say they're hoping for the best but prepared for the worst.
- "We know we're going to be judged kind of how we do in the playoffs," Canucks forward Ryan Kesler said. "Now the real season begins. It's going to be a good test, this first round, for us."
- The Vancouver Canucks carry the NHL's best record into the Stanley Cup playoffs for the second year in a row.
- Playoff coverage, page 18. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman stands between the Stanley Cup and a 21-foot replica. GETTY IMAGES

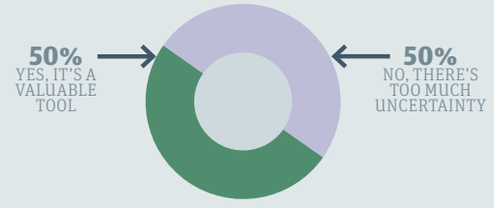
Boston Bruins captain Zdeno Chara hoists the Stanley Cup for thousands of fans to see during a rally in celebration of the team's victory in Boston, in this June 2011 file photo.

CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should police use Facebook photos to identify suspects?



Twitter

@LuvChaos: #YQR reading Regina #Metro I like it. Its like a magazine/newspaper. And its FREEEE, who does that? My complaint? 15pgs isn't enuf "news"

@curtispearce: Looking fwd to the Farmers Market being on the new plaza, and the return of Scarth St popcorn! #yqr #summer2012

@DarrenSproat: 200,000 reasons to love Regina... it's 200,000 amazing people! #WHYQR #YQR

@PixelReaper: @DarrenSproat I know at least a dozen people in #yqr that are pretty far from amazing. Your math is flawed.

@SKBookAwards: The SBA gala event is April 28th. Visit http://bookawards.sk.ca & buy a ticket to rub shoulders with #sk literatti! #yqr #sktourism

metro

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Action star by accident

Maggie Grace. Lost actress talks about her new role in Lockout and her accidental ascent as an action star

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Maggie Grace in Lockout. HANDOUT

Maggie Grace wants to make it clear that while her eye is tearing up, it's not because of anything anyone said.

"I'm not crying. I just did a little damage [on set] last night," she says. "I just injured my eye a little bit. I didn't want people to think I was just so emotional."

And then, to undermine her own point, Grace then launches into a tearful speech about how wonderful Lockout co-star Guy Pearce is before breaking down laughing.

Grace, who first rose to fame as the pampered Shannon on Lost, has been following an interestingly physical track with her film career, which is something she hadn't expected.

"It's funny, it's become kind of a theme for me — a string of action movies," she says.

"I just wrapped Taken 2 — and I was the girl who would lock myself in the locker room and cry after gym class. So it's just funny what life brings you."

Her latest film, the sci-fi caper Lockout, is a part of that action-heavy trend. "I pretty much looked like a dalmatian," she says about her bruised appearance after filming was completed last autumn in Serbia. Not that she's complaining, of course.

"We arrived in Serbia to start training a little bit early with the wires and do some combat training, so that was really helpful. And also a lot of fun. Probably the closest I'll get to being a trapeze artist myself," she remembers.

And while so much work in the action genre may seem like a happy accident to her, Grace doesn't feel the same way about acting in general.

"I never understand those 'tripped and fell' stories. I don't know how that works," she says, referring to actors who claim they found their vocation by chance.

"Maybe it sounds sort of modest or something, I don't know. But I feel like I've worked really hard to get where I am, and I'm pretty proud of it."

She's also proud of how much travelling she does for work, noting that she's back in L.A. for the first time since living on location since October.

"If you have any time off, I love to explore. It's one of my favourite things about doing this for a living — and why so far I've really preferred features to television," she says.

"I don't know how I'm going to commit to one man for the rest of my life when I can't commit to one television show for a seven-year contract."

"Don't I know you from ...?"

With all the travelling she does — and with parts in two beloved franchises (Lost and Twilight) — Maggie Grace is often stopped by fans.

- **What's she recognized for most these days?** "Usually Taken, lately. For a long time it was Lost, and that still comes up. Those are pretty hardcore fans, the Losties," she says. "But Taken, it's pretty funny. Especially in airports, of course."

Rolling Stones in 'anniversary' training

Half a century. Ronnie Wood says he and the band just want to get the 'feel' again, likens it to Olympic training

Ronnie Wood says the Rolling Stones will meet in a recording studio later this month "to just throw some ideas around."

The guitarist for the legendary rock group said Monday that he and the band just want "to get the feel again."

He also added that the Rolling Stones 50th anniversary is like training for something big.

"It's like working out for the Olympics or something," Wood said. "You've got to go into training. So we're going to go into training."

Wood made the comments Monday in an interview following a press conference for his exhibition, Faces, Time and Places, which features his own paintings. It includes pieces of him and his band mates, as well as Muhammad Ali and Al Pacino.

Wood, who said he first started painting at age three, enjoys doing it because it's a reflection of his own ideas, unlike music, which he calls "a group effort."

The exhibit launched Monday and will close June 30.

Wood's week will get busier when he is inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Saturday as a member of The Faces, along with Rod Stewart.

It will be the second induction for the 64-year-old Wood. The Rolling Stones were inducted in 1989.

He'll also perform a solo show at the Golden Nugget in Atlantic City, N.J., on April 21.

Ronnie Wood THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When asked what fans should expect, he said: "Lots of surprises because I'm going to surprise myself. I don't know what the hell is coming next.

"The whole set list is going to be made up. I'm making it up every day now."

Wood says he would love to go on a solo tour, "if I had enough time, but I have too many commitments."

He also talked about possibly recording another solo album.

"Lots of people don't know I've made seven, 'cause most of my albums escape; they're not released," he said, laughing. "Keith [Richards] says they all skyrocket to oblivion."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Music man

"Lots of people don't know I've made seven, 'cause most of my albums escape; they're not released. Keith (Richards) says they all skyrocket to oblivion."

Ronnie Wood
When asked if he would record another solo album

2 SCENE

Scene in brief

Alba gets her poetry voice on

Jessica Alba is adding her voice to National Poetry Month, helping to lure children into the art form. Alba is among more than a dozen celebrity parents whose poetry readings are airing on the Disney and Disney Junior channels this month. Readings by Viola Davis, Caroline Kennedy, Liev Schreiber and Katie Holmes are also featured in "A Poem Is ....", a short-form series that sets verse to classic Disney animation. Langston Hughes, Mary Ann Hoberman and May Swenson are among the writers whose work is included. Alba's segment will air April 29, on the Disney Channel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Surprise! Keith Urban offers a few, gets his own from Vince Gill at All For The Hall concert

Norton joins sustainability fight

Seeing green.
Fight Club star is throwing punches for the environment

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

High Line is an old New York railroad converted into a park — one of many of Norton's projects. HANDOUT

Talking to Edward Norton, his passion for the planet becomes incredibly clear. And the man knows his stuff, serving as an ambassador for the United Nations' biodiversity program. And that's aside from co-founding Crowdrise, a social-media-powered fundraising group for charities of all stripes.

You've done a lot with improving low-income housing. Is that an area where you can apply green initiatives and kill two birds with one stone?
Definitely. You can apply efficiency and sustainability standards to affordable housing, absolutely. And not only is it better for the environment, better for cities, better for the health of residents, but it actually proves to be very cost-efficient. Ultimately, the additional costs associated with doing things in a greener and sustainable way in affordable housing can usually get paid back by the savings from that efficiency within a couple of years.

Yet a lot of people still assume greener building practices are more expensive.
Sometimes environmental values get associated with some sort of an elitist choice or a choice that's only available to people of a certain income level, and that's just absolutely not true.

What are some areas where people would assume it's more expensive to be more green?
Certain technologies cost more upfront, but as you start to project the operational cost of things not only do those costs get paid back, but over a long-term stretch there's actual savings and cost efficiency in making more sustainable choices in the way that we do things. Smart businesses and smart governments are realizing this themselves and pursuing those efficiencies.

This green issue is about cities. Can cities be eco-friendly?
One of the ironies is the density of cities makes people think that they must be energy hogs, but the truth is that on a per capita basis, cities are much more efficient places to live than the suburbs. New York on a per capita basis is probably a much greener city than the average suburb. Certainly more than a city like Phoenix, where you've got incredible energy expenditure because of the sprawl and the way that the city's built — and the lack of mass transit and all of it.

We recently talked to the founder of Pirate Bay, who suggested that younger people find green issues outdated and are more interested in problems of free speech.
I don't actually agree with that. I think we're continuing to see a broader and broader penetration of awareness and concern about ecological sustainability, lost biodiversity, climate change. I think it's one of the few things that is pervasive for all societies. Free speech issues, you can argue, are more important in some places than others. Environmental sustainability is equally important everywhere.

We write about a system designed to turn human waste into energy. Would you use something like that?
I think we're going to have to move decisively in that direction. We're going to have to look at solid waste energy as well as turning waste water and sewage waste to energy. And even beyond energy, I think that water is going to be one of the pressing issues of the 21st and 22nd centuries.

If you look at a place like Singapore, they've already moved completely to where they're not only reusing their municipal sewage stream for irrigation and things like that, but it also contributes to the drinking water supply.

So there's going to be a lot of jokes about it, but there's just no doubt that we're going to have to get better at closing the loop in all ways in terms of reusing our waste stream at every level.

Fundraising

What's this Crowdrise thing all about, anyway?

Edward Norton has been in the news for co-founding Crowdrise, a crowd sourcing charity website. Here, he explains where the idea came from and how the system compares to traditional forms of fundraising — particularly in the cost-savings department.

"It grew out of many years of having the experience of being involved in causes and realizing painfully that there were a lot of costs associated with fundraising," Norton tells Metro during an interview.

"Sometimes you lose 40 per cent of the money you had raised to the costs of producing the event or the dinner or whatever.

"The service we really want to bring first and foremost through Crowdrise was to give people a way, through these powerful online networking tools, to take ownership of these causes and have impact.

"But we also want to let the organizations achieve this kind of fundraising for costs that were fractional compared to traditional fundraising," he says about Crowdrise.

NED EHRBAR

Edward Norton is convinced that housing built in a sustainable way is more cost effective. HANDOUT

Raitt falls into the success Slipstream

Returning to the studio. Bonnie Raitt's latest offering finds her receiving inspiration from an unexpected source

Bonnie Raitt had been thinking about working with Grammy-winning producer Joe Henry for years. And Henry had been kicking around the idea of reaching out to the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer whose voice he has adored forever.

It wasn't until mutual friend Allen Toussaint made a cosmic connection that the two finally got together, launching Raitt on the journey to Slipstream, her first new album in seven years. During a recording session with Aaron Neville, Toussaint coyly suggested that Henry work with Raitt in the future. And when Toussaint speaks, Henry always listens.

"He's not like anybody else on this earth," Henry said. "He's like Yoda."

The producer called the performer shortly thereafter and, as the great New Orleans producer and performer suspected, the chemistry between Raitt and Henry was dynamite.

Quote

"He's not like anybody else on this earth."

Joe Henry speaking about Allen Toussaint

"I was about a month away from thinking of calling and I got the contact from my office saying Joe wants to speak to you," Raitt said. "And I just thought it was so synchronistic. It was one of those really great times, a really great phone call."

Slipstream, her 19th album and her first on her own label, Redwing Records, is a mix of styles and flavours. Al Anderson, formerly of NRBQ, contributes three songs and plays on four, acting as a counterpunch to Henry's more sombre songs. And Raitt even offers a reggae version of Gerry Rafferty's Right Down the Line.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bonnie Raitt's Slipstream is her first album in seven years. HANDOUT

Analysis

Inspiration from strange places

Bonnie Raitt really didn't have elaborate expectations when she joined Joe Henry.

They thought they'd spend a few days on a handful of songs, but after three days, they had nine.

"It was like the pilot light was on, but he turned the gas up," Raitt said.

They emerged from those sessions with four new cuts for the album: Henry compositions God Only Knows (perhaps the album's standout) and You Can't Fail Me Now (co-written with Loudon Wainwright III) and the Bob Dylan covers Million Miles and Standing in the Doorway.

And Raitt emerged aflame with the need to pull her touring band together to cut more tracks. She eventually added eight others to Slipstream and the cuts left over will be released after she completes tours.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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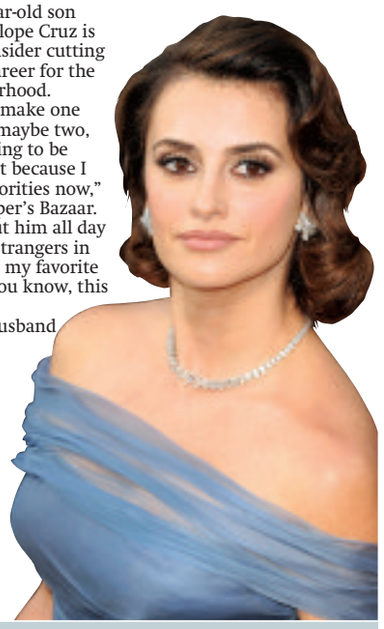
More mothering, less acting for Cruz



With a one-year-old son at home, Penelope Cruz is starting to consider cutting back on her career for the sake of motherhood.

"Maybe I'll make one movie a year, maybe two, but it's not going to be more than that because I have other priorities now," Cruz tells Harper's Bazaar.

"I talk about him all day long, even to strangers in the street. It is my favorite subject! But, you know, this is my job."

Cruz and husband Javier Bardem welcomed son Leonardo last year.

Is the Seal/Klum divorce getting ugly?

Seal is striking back at Heidi Klum, reportedly disputing her divorce petition, according to TMZ.

The main issue he takes with her filing? Seal insists there are "community and quasi-community assets" that need to be divided up, while Klum claims a post-nuptial agreement addresses that. In addition, Klum cites January 19 as the official start of their separation, while Seal says the date hasn't been determined.

Seal is also asking for joint physical custody of their children instead of Klum's proposed full physical custody.

"Given that he's away a lot on tour, giving her primary physical custody is pretty much status quo," the source says. And both parties are reportedly asking to deny spousal support to the other. Klum is worth an estimated $70 million, while Seal is worth $15 million.

Lohan strikes back

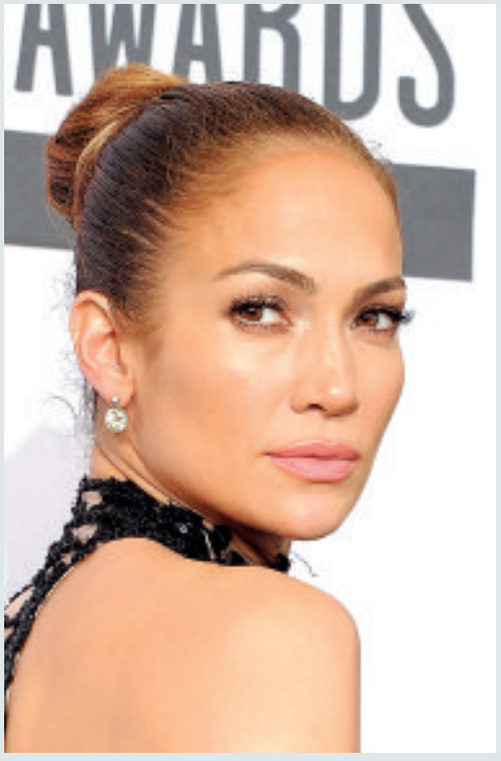
Lindsay Lohan isn't taking her latest legal attack lying down. A woman has accused the troubled actress of attacking her in a nightclub last week, and now Lohan wants police to investigate the accuser and arrest her for filing a false police report, according to TMZ.

"If it's true that someone made false accusations against Ms. Lohan and reported those false claims to police, we will take appropriate action, which includes seeking the prosecution of that individual," Lohan's attorney tells the website.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



A little background on J. Lo's gift to Casper Smart

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

For Tuesday's Word, I wrote about Jennifer Lopez, 42, gifting beau/backup dancer Casper Smart, 25, with a custom white Dodge pickup truck for his birthday.

Apparently, Lopez "knew that Casper really wanted a truck, and Casper was very excited about the generous gift," a source told People magazine. "Casper was so excited about his new truck that he decided to drive it to dinner. She was smiling about Casper's excitement."

In the column, I made a crack about how: 1) That "source" sounded like a quote-giving robot and 2) How I was surprised that Lopez didn't buy him a Fiat considering all the shilling she does for the car manufacturer. This was the incorrect joke to make. Please check out the following reader mail:

"You may need to do some more digging. Chrysler/Dodge/Ram are owned in part by Fiat which helped bailout Chrysler!! That is why he got a Ram Truck from J. Lo and not a Ford F-150!!!"

"Did you really not know that Fiat and Dodge are both owned by Chrysler LLC, when you wrote that J-Lo dreck?"

"I feel obligated to point out that Fiat holds a considerable financial and developmental stake in Chrysler (who makes Dodge and Jeep vehicles). It wouldn't be too much of a stretch to assume she used an "employee discount" (if any money was spent at all) on that Dodge truck."

In my defence, I am only a semi-good looking recycler of celebrity gossip, not a hard-hitting journalist who knows the ins-and-outs of the car industry. However, thanks to my eagle-eyed readers, who do know such things, we all now know that this "news item" and "gift" was a total plant by Fiat and that truck was totally free in exchange for press. And, really, do celebrities ever pay for anything? Or do they just have to save their cash for when they will inevitably need a high-priced divorce lawyer?

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Princess Diana wanted to star in Bodyguard sequel, says Costner

Kevin Costner reveals there were plans for a sequel to The Bodyguard — with Princess Diana interested in starring as herself.

"Diana and I had been talking about doing Bodyguard 2," Costner tells Anderson Cooper in an interview set to air next month.

"I told her I would take care of her just the same way that I took care of Whitney (Houston)."

And though the late Princess had no professional acting experience, Costner was eager to work with her.

"She wanted me to write it for her. I said, 'I'll tailor it for you if you're interested.' She goes, 'I am interested,'" Costner remembers, revealing that he received a draft of the script the day before Diana lost her life in 1997.

Bobbi Kristina agrees to reality show: Report

Bobbi Kristina Brown, the daughter of late singer Whitney Houston, has reportedly made a verbal deal to star in a reality TV series, according to Radar Online.

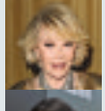
"This show is being done against her family's advice," a source says. Brown, who is reportedly dealing with her own substance-abuse issues, is "obviously very wild and misguided," the source adds.

"Bobbi is scared the world will label her just like her mother."

Twitter

@justinbieber
nothing like being doubted every single day of your life...and u just turned 18 and they are ready to write u off. = INSPIRATION

@ladygaga
Just killed back to back spin classes. Eating a salad dreaming of a cheeseburger



@Joan_Rivers
Just read that J.Lo gave her boyfriend Casper Smart a pickup truck for his birthday. He can't wait until he's old enough to drive it.

@jimmykimmel
Scientists have discovered that time moves slowest when your Uncle shows you a card trick.

Take spring style by storm

Go ahead, let it pour.
If it rains on your parade you'll be ready

ELIZABETH BEDDALL
Life@metronews.ca

Spring has sprung and the world is... wet? As Canadians we've learned how to rock any climate, and the soggy days of the season are no exception.

This year however, retailers have taken rain gear up a notch — and are giving us no choice but to dance through every downpour.

"Colour is huge this spring," says Sears trend director Cynthia Florek.

"We're seeing the trench updated in electric colours like blue, green and coral or through interesting textures and effects like micro-suede perforations and neutral colour blocking."

Boots, umbrellas and other permeable pairables have followed suit, so take stock of this gorgeous gear.

I'm only happy when it rains. JOE FRESH

On trend

"The trench is the perfect outerwear piece to transition into spring... And anoraks, anoraks, anoraks — spring must-have! I love the Joe Fresh nylon anorak over a tulip dress with pretty pumps — très chic!"

Adrienne Shoom
Style Director at Joe Fresh

Banana Republic Solid Belted Mac, $160 - bananarepublic.com

Attitude Jay Manuel Funnel-Coated Trench, $179.99, sears.ca

Joe Fresh Mac Coat, $29, joefresh.com

Gap Rubber Boots
Gap
$54.95, gap.com

Fulton Red Bird Cage Umbrella
Sears
$34.99, sears.ca

Ladies Rubber Boots in Lace
Walmart
$20, walmart.ca

Old Navy Dot Umbrella
Old Navy
$12.50, oldnavy.ca

Jessica Weekend Boater Shoes
Sears
$59.99, sears.ca

Facing the elements.
The eye of the storm

Take note of this rainproof makeup tip from Rimmel makeup artist, Vanessa Jarman:

Waterproof Mascara
Waterproof mascara shouldn't be used all the time. The alcohol content tends to dry out lashes and is not the most nourishing formula to apply on a constant basis. Having said that... if you will be attending an emotional event such as a wedding or funeral, or know your day will be filled with a lot of rain, it's always better to be prepared!

TIP: You can try applying regular mascara on your lashes for your first coat to add a barrier and then coat your lashes with waterproof mascara to seal everything in.

Try: Rimmel's Sexy Curves Waterproof Mascara

For the boys:

Lacoste Blouson Jacket
Lacoste
$250, lacoste.com

Style pick:
Your mane rain timesaver

This water absorbing hair brush from Goody is equipped with ball-tip bristles and microfibre beads that wrap around wet hair like a towel as you brush, absorbing water with every stroke and reducing your drying time significantly.

Microbial microfibre keeps this uber-helpful hair care product clean.

Quick Style Paddle Brush
Goody
$15.99, goody.com

3 LIFE

Style file

Colour me trendy

Most of us can pair one bold colour with another - it just takes a little confidence. But colour blocking, that's more of an art, and it's one to be mastered this spring season.

The highest standard of colour blocking was set by Yves Saint Laurent, who transferred the graphic, pop-art look of painter Piet Mondrian onto fabric. The YSL look was an instant hit as it fit so nicely into the fresh, no-frills mod fashions of the mid 1960s.

Since then, Lisa Perry, known for her bright traffic-stopping colour combinations on simple silhouettes, says the style has become a classic that sometimes hits as a bona fide trend. This is one of those years, she says. It's part of a broader movement away from the earth tones that dominated runways and stores for a while.

• A general definition of colour blocking is the pairing of chunks of contrasting colours.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

Christian Dior names Belgian designer Raf Simons as its new artistic director

Match it up: Does this go with that?

Decor ideas. How to match your home decor for a beautiful coordinated look

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Decor rules: Draperies should blend with the wall colour and your style of artwork should inspire the look of your area rugs. CRATEANDBARREL.CA

Like most decor enthusiasts, I prefer to space out my decorating projects and not do it all at once. This gives me a chance to stand back and reflect on my choices. Plus, it's easier on the pocketbook.

But one danger of decorating in stages is that some people may lose focus of the overall look they're trying to achieve. Here's a brief guide to help you get inspired and stay on track:

Fabrics and paint

Start with the largest pattern in each room. In the bedroom, it's the duvet cover/bedding; in the living room it's the sofa; in the bathroom it's the shower curtain.

The second major colour you see in the pattern is the one you match with accessories in the room, and the third colour in the pattern is used for the wall colour.

If there is not a pattern or colour used in your fabric choices then you have a monochromatic colour scheme (all variants of the same colour). In this case, choose the same colour for accessories and wall colours, but choose lighter or darker versions to make things more interesting.

Windows

Shades should blend with the window's framing. If your window trims are white, choose a white window shade. If you have wood window trims, then choose taupe, brown or wood shades.

Draperies should always match the walls. A shade lighter or darker than your paint colour will make them a mainstay classic in the room's decor.

Rugs

Match your area rugs to any artwork you have (or are attracted to). If you like rich Van Gogh-style art, choose richly patterned Persian-style rugs to blend in. If you gravitate toward modern black and white art, choose neutral area rugs in very light or very dark tones.

Lighting

If you are having trouble choosing a lampshade, try matching it to the frames on your walls. If you have dark brown or black frames, choose the same colour for lampshades.

A plain white lampshade will always work but can be a little boring, especially in a room where deeper, darker tones are being used.

Kitchens

The colour of your kitchen backsplash should blend with the upper and lower cabinetry. This will encourage the eye to travel vertically without interruption. For instance, if you have deep-cherry-wood-toned cabinets, your backsplash could be a ruddy brown slate to match.

Countertops should get the same colouring and tones of your appliances. If you've chosen stainless-steel appliances with black trims, a grey-toned counter with dark specs or veining would be perfect.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Reporting to the Sales/General Manager, Metro Regina, the right candidate will join Metro's dynamic and award winning Creative Services team. We're looking for an eager Graphic Designer whose portfolio and experience reflects that of print, online and mobile graphic design and who possesses a successful track record of the professional delivery of deadline driven projects in an extremely fast paced environment. The ideal candidate will also possess a good knowledge of print design and production, specifically for newspaper and magazine print advertising, and will have the skill set of an online graphic designer using web based media.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Development of creative executions for in-paper retail advertising, online, mobile and print production knowledge
- Quality assurance of design and layout prior to sending to clients
- Professional contact with internal and external clientele
- All other duties as assigned

REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:

- Skilled in print, online and mobile graphic design and animation, comprehensive and complete software knowledge including, QuarkXPress, InDesign, Adobe Acrobat/Distiller, Flash, Photoshop, Illustrator, Image Ready and Dreamweaver
- Proficient on both PC and MAC platforms
- Knowledge in optimizing images for web and mobile (optimal file sizes, file formats etc) while maintaining small file sizes
- Basic understanding of HTML and CSS
- Ability to prep files for print production
- Expert in file stuffing (.sitx, .sit, .sea, .zip) and FTP experience
- Professional, personable, approachable with great communication skills (both verbal and written)
- Ability to thrive in a deadline driven, creative and dynamic environment with strong attention to detail (typography, copy, grammar, layout, images, colour etc)
- Ability to thrive under pressure in a fast paced, multi-faceted and deadline driven environment
- Must be a quick problem-solver, who initiates projects and who takes a pro-active/smart approach
- Post secondary degree or diploma in Web Design, Animation and/or Graphic Design
- A marketing background and/or work experience at an agency or in marketing would be an asset
- 2-3 years design experience within a newspaper environment

IInterested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than April 20, 2012. PLEASE QUOTE: "Graphic Designer - Regina" in the subject line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

Dust begets more dust

Ready for a dust-up with those bunnies?

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Throw on some music and do a little dusting dance around your house clothing optional). ISTOCK

Dear Charles the Butler,
I am finding it very difficult to do more than "move dust around" when I dust. A lot has to do with static electricity, as the problem is worse on or near electronics such as the TV or DVD player.

I am concerned about the use of water or furniture polishes on some types of wood and wood finishes, as I ruined some pieces a while back using polish. I do like a clean place. Can you help?
Robin

Hello Robin,

As I am sure you have all heard me say many times before, dust is both a never-ending duty, and the world today has more dust in it than it has ever had before.

So dealing with the dust is important as it continues to build up and can lead to some big dust bunnies.

Remember that even if you don't use a certain room in your house, you still need to dust that space on a regular basis because dust attracts more dust. Thus, keeping up with this task helps to keep life simpler.

And the selfish result is that it makes dusting easier the more often we do it. Here are some dusting tips:

1. Dust often.

2. Don't use chemical dusting sprays as they often have silicone in them and this builds up on your furniture, and attracts more dust.

3. My personal trick that works perfectly and is used by curators in museums to clean delicate items is to wet your hands just a little, then dry them on a cotton cloth (only 100 per cent cotton).

This process makes the cotton cloth the perfect humidity to "damp dust" — but remember to use very little or no water.

The cloth should be only humid to pick up the dust perfectly.

What's great about this is that there are no chemicals, and the cotton cloths can be cleaned in the washing machine and re-used.

Give this a try and let us know how it works for you.

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND AN EMAIL TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

Reclaim Sunday dinner with dishes the family can bond over

1. Remove sausages from casings and crumble. In a large skillet over high heat, brown sausage. Transfer to paper towels to drain. Wipe the fat out of the pan.

2. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook until al dente (if using rigatoni or orecchiette, cook for 8 minutes; if using penne, cook for 9 minutes).

3. Heat olive oil and garlic in wiped-out skillet over medium-high heat until garlic is golden.

4. Add broccoli rabe, red pepper flakes and salt and cook for 5 minutes, stirring a few times.

5. Add sausage and butter and cook over high heat for 5 minutes, stirring a few times.

6. Drain pasta, reserving 250 ml (1 cup) of the cooking water and transfer pasta to skillet.

7. Mix well, adding water if pasta seems too dry. Pour into a large warm serving bowl, sprinkle cheese over top and serve.

Ingredients

8 to 10 portions

- 1 kg (2 lb) Italian sausage
- 1 kg (2 lb) rigatoni, penne or orecchiette
- 250 ml (1 cup) extra-virgin olive oil
- 6 cloves garlic, crushed into a paste
- 1.5 g (3 lb) broccoli rabe, stems trimmed and cut into 2.5-cm (1-inch) pieces
- 5 ml (1 tsp) red pepper flakes
- 5 ml (1 tsp) sea salt
- 60 ml (4 tbsp/1/2 stick) unsalted butter
- 250 ml (1 cup) grated Pecorino Romano

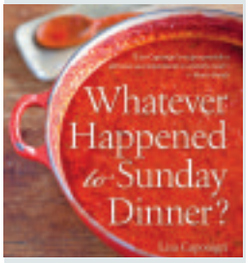
THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SUNDAY DINNER? A YEAR OF ITALIAN MENUS WITH 250 RECIPES THAT CELEBRATE FAMILY BY LISA CAPONIGRI (STERLING EPICURE, 2012).

Pasta con Salsicce e Broccolini

This recipe serves eight to 10 people. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Cookbook of the Week

Whatever Happened to Sunday Dinner?



Lisa Caponigri has released Whatever Happened to Sunday Dinner? to give families recipes they can easily cook and enjoy together.

Caponigri has devised 52 delicious Italian menus — one for each Sunday of the year — that feature classics like crostini, lasagne, polenta, stuffed peppers, veal piccata, risotto alla Milanese, and ricotta pie.

There are also many surprises like Woodman's pasta and Italian french fries — and traditional, treasured dishes from her own family's kitchen, such as Nana's Strufoli and Grandma Caponigri's Ragu Sauce. METRO

Medaglione di Agnello con Prosciutto. Italian lamb

1. In a large skillet, melt 30 ml (2 tbsp) of the butter over medium heat. Add prosciutto slices and warm through for 2 minutes. Transfer to a plate and cover with aluminum foil.

2. With a 5-cm (2-inch) round biscuit cutter, cut a round out of each slice of bread. Discard trimmings.

3. Melt 30 ml (2 tbsp) of the butter in the same skillet over medium heat. Add bread rounds (you may need to do this in two batches) and brown until golden on both sides. Remove to a paper towel-lined plate and keep warm in the oven on low or cover with aluminum foil.

4. In the same skillet, melt remaining 90 ml (6 tbsp) butter over medium heat. Add lamb and cook for no more than 2 minutes per side. Season to taste with sea salt and pepper on both sides as you cook.

5. Place bread rounds on a serving platter and top each with a slice of prosciutto. Place a lamb medallion on each.

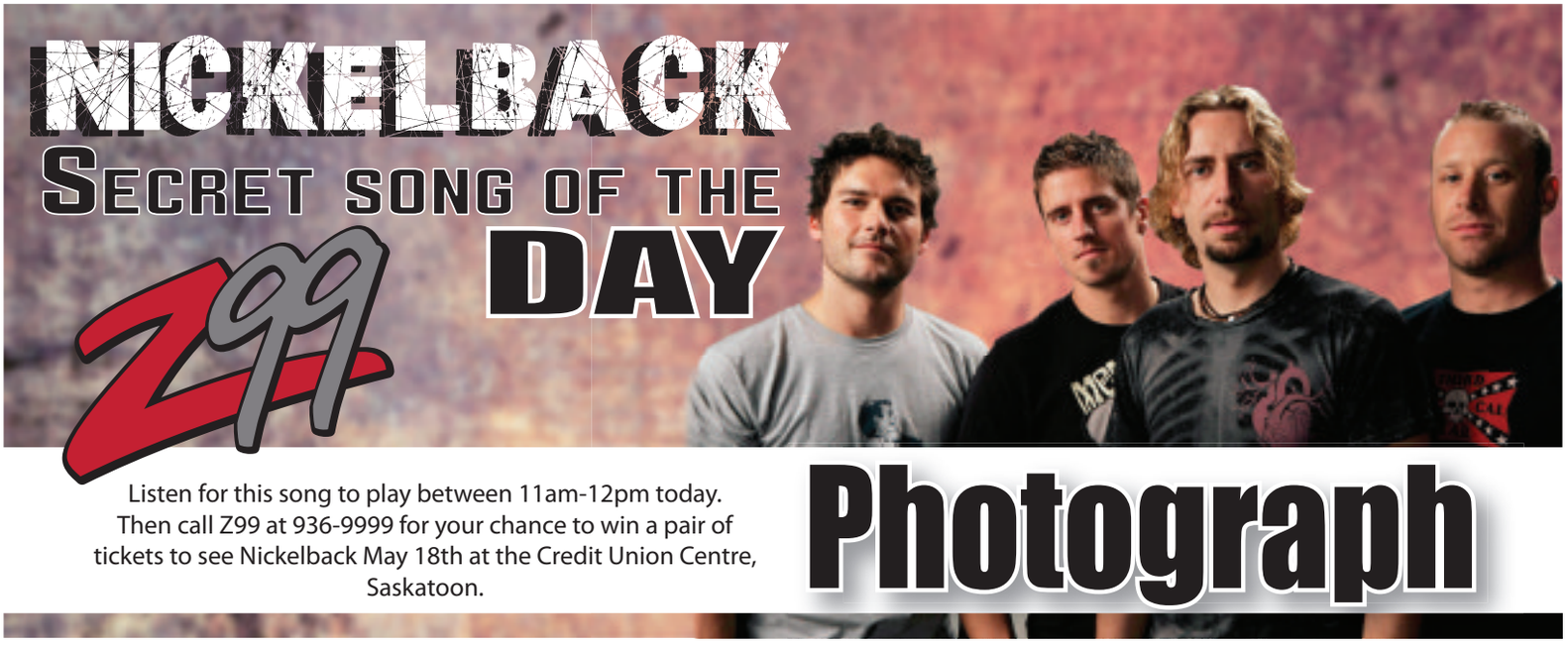
6. Add wine to skillet, turn heat to high and deglaze pan, scraping up all the browned bits stuck to the bottom. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes to reduce wine slightly. Pour over lamb and serve.

Ingredients

8 to 10 portions

- 150 ml (10 tbsp/1 stick plus 2 tbsp) unsalted butter, divided
- 12 thin slices prosciutto
- 12 slices white bread, crusts removed
- 12 lamb chops, about 2.5 cm (1 inch) thick, cut off bone, bone removed
- Sea salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 250 ml (1 cup) white wine

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SUNDAY DINNER? A YEAR OF ITALIAN MENUS WITH 250 RECIPES THAT CELEBRATE FAMILY BY LISA CAPONIGRI (STERLING EPICURE, 2012).



Listen for this song to play between 11am-12pm today.
Then call Z99 at 936-9999 for your chance to win a pair of tickets to see Nickelback May 18th at the Credit Union Centre, Saskatoon.

4 SPORTS

Quoted

"I'm going to take some time off and not look at the clubs for a while, and then get back after it."

A statement from Tiger Woods on his website Wednesday, announcing that he is taking a three-week break before returning to golf at the Wells Fargo Championship. Woods announced Wednesday he will resume an up-and-down season May 3-6 at Quail Hollow, where he won in 2007. In his last three tournaments, Woods withdrew in the middle of the final round at Doral with a sore Achilles tendon, won at Bay Hill for his first PGA Tour title in 30 months and tied for 40th at the Masters, his worst 72-hole position in any major as a pro.

"I know what I need to work on. It's just a matter of getting out there and doing it. Just putting in the reps and the time. I just wasn't able to do it at the Masters."

Tiger Woods

On the web

Flyers-Pens clash in Game 1

The Philadelphia Flyers travelled to Pittsburgh for the opener of their first-round series with the Penguins on Wednesday night. Go to metronews.ca for the game story.

On the web

There may have been some panicky moments around the country as the 2010 Olympic gold-medal hockey game went to overtime, but as Team Canada head coach Mike Babcock explains in his new book, "there was no way doubt was getting in the dressing room on that day." Scan the code for the story.

Daniel Alfredsson says trying to explain a playoff atmosphere to teammates "doesn't do it justice." EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Alfredsson spreads post-season wisdom

NHL. Captain gives advice to young club ahead of first-round matchup vs. Rangers

Daniel Alfredsson has been here before. Many of his teammates haven't.

The Senators captain will look to pass his playoff experience onto a youthful Ottawa locker-room before the team opens its Eastern Conference quarter-final with the Rangers in New York on Thursday.

But Alfredsson says there's nothing that can prepare a player for his NHL playoff debut.

"It's like going to Vegas for the first time," the 39-year-old said Wednesday. "People can tell you how incredible it is to see these buildings in the middle of the desert, but until you go there it doesn't do it justice.

"The playoffs are the same way."

Ottawa, the eighth seed in the East, will dress no fewer than six players with zero NHL playoff experience at Madison Square Garden against the heavily favoured Rangers.

Alfredsson, who has 107 playoff games to his credit, believes preparation will be key for the Senators' young players.

"It's just making them aware of how things are on such a bigger scale. If you say the wrong thing it's going to be in every paper and you're going to have to answer for it," he said. "It's about handling your emotions because you're so pumped up and you have to be able to direct them in the right way."

One of those players is rookie blue-liner Jared Cowen.

"We've been talking about playoffs for a while now, especially since we clinched," he said. "It's exciting to actually get into it now and actually experience it for the first time and get the game started."

The success of the AHL's Binghamton Senators, who won last season's Calder Cup, also helps.

"I think we're going to rely on that experience a lot," said winger Colin Greening. "We went through four rounds of really hard, arduous hockey so we're banking on that experience to help us."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Zibanejad joins AHL

Rookie Mika Zibanejad caused a stir Tuesday when he skated with Ottawa's top line.

- But the Senators assigned the 18-year-old Swede to the AHL on Wednesday.
- The talented forward Zibanejad was taken sixth overall in the 2011 draft and made the Senators out of training camp before being loaned to Djurgarden of the Swedish Elite League.
- Zibanejad could return to the NHL after the AHL season ends, but suiting up for a game with Ottawa would burn a year of his three-year entry-level contract.

NHL. Rangers embrace Tortorella's snarly style

New York head coach John Tortorella. GETTY IMAGES FILE

John Tortorella stared into a packed interview room on the eve of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

With several cameras and a swarm of reporters in his face, the fiery coach of the New York Rangers impatiently awaited the first question.

Awkward silence followed until he broke it.

"Five, four, three," he counted down.

It was met with laughter, but Tortorella didn't join in. It is hardly a stretch to think that if nothing was asked before he reached zero, he would've marched out the door.

Quoted

"You're going to play within the team concept, and if you don't, you just don't play. If you're not playing, you know why."

Rangers centre Brad Richards, who won a cup with John Tortorella in Tampa Bay.

So it goes with perhaps the most intense coach in the NHL.

Tortorella has been fined twice this season. The first was $10,000 US for suggesting the NHL and NBC colluded to try to get the Winter Classic into overtime. The second was $20,000 last week after a loss at Pittsburgh in which he unleashed a profanity-laced tirade at Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin. That was sparked by Penguin Brooks Orpik's hit on Derek Stepan, which Tortorella called dirty.

"He is willing to put himself out there to stick up for us," Rangers forward Mike Rupp said. "He doesn't want his players to be disrespected, and he will stand against that. He is very good at just trying to protect us as best he can. It's just one of those things that make you want to play for him."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston Bruins

Horton likely to miss the playoffs

Bruins forward Nathan Horton is expected to miss the Stanley Cup playoffs because of a concussion.

Horton suffered the injury Jan. 22 in a game against the Philadelphia Flyers and has not played since.

The 26-year-old had three game-winning goals in last year's Stanley Cup run, but he missed the final four games of the championship series against Vancouver after suffering a concussion in Game 3.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago Blackhawks

Toews expected to play Game 1

Chicago captain Jonathan Toews is expected to play in the opening game of the Blackhawks' playoff series against the Phoenix Coyotes on Thursday. He missed the final 22 games of the regular season because of a concussion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jonathan Toews at practice on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Davis Cup

Canada to play South Africa

Milos Raonic likes Canada's chances against South Africa in a critical Davis Cup tennis playoff later this year.

Raonic, from Thornhill, Ont., is expected to lead the Canadian team into the best-of-five tie. Canada must win in order to remain in the World Group for 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIFA

Canada up to 75th in rankings

World champion Spain remained top in FIFA's monthly rankings, and Uruguay rose to third. The Netherlands dropped two places to fourth, losing second to Germany. Canada, which hasn't played since losing to Armenia in a friendly match in February, moved up four spots to 75th.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

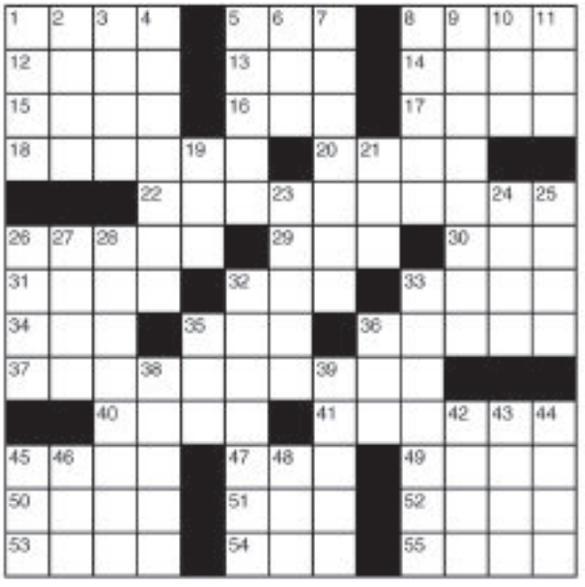
Crossword

Across

1 Sitarist's rendition
5 Pouch
8 Sedimentary deposit
12 Beige
13 Swelled head
14 Freshly
15 Send forth
16 Lair
17 Start over
18 Man's hat style
20 Campus area
22 Etui's cousin?
26 Invigorating
29 Coop occupant
30 Street address?
31 Tramp's love
32 Pickle container
33 Actress Jessica
34 Whatever amount
35 Pitch
36 Skin
37 1959 Hudson/Day movie
40 Gentle soul
41 Subtlety
45 Raised platform
47 Make a choice
49 Gander
50 Into the sunrise
51 Digits (Abbr.)
52 Capri, e.g.
53 Crazy
54 Actor Ron
55 Geographical septet

Down

1 Coral structure
2 Pinnacle
3 Crossword diagram
4 Final exam?
5 Car style
6 Census statistic
7 Triumph over
8 Fergie, less familiarly
9 Like wax fruit
10 Started
11 Teeter-totter quorum
19 Sartorial problem
21 Sailors' org.
23 "USA Today" feature
24 Spheres
25 Ark skipper
26 Applaud
27 Hindu princess
28 Writer of pastoral pieces
32 Mandible
33 Acids' neutralizers
35 Pig stealer of rhyme
36 Winter ailment
38 Survives
39 Nervous
42 Winning margin, maybe
43 Pop flavor
44 — out a living
45 Society newbie
46 Motorists' grp.
48 Rep. or Dem.



Sudoku

8					6			
2				1		3	9	
1		5			8			
5	6	8				4		
4								2
		7				5	6	1
			2			8		7
	1	4		3				6
			6					9

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	6	4	9	5	3	8	7
7	8	4	1	3	2	5	9	6
9	3	5	7	8	6	2	4	1
2	6	7	9	4	1	8	5	3
3	4	9	5	7	8	1	6	2
8	5	1	2	6	3	4	7	9
4	1	2	6	5	7	9	3	8
6	9	3	8	1	4	7	2	5
5	7	8	3	2	9	6	1	4

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

QNCI H UESER PM YCUK HSMEUSCG PI YPCQPIZ MEBCRNPIZ. BPZNR EIC MHK PRM CKCM HUC UPYCRCG?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE ZOO, A BUNCH OF WICKED ZEBRAS WERE UNASHAMEDLY PLAYING A GAME OF STRIPE POKER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals I

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Sometimes you are too nice and if you let someone off the hook today when they don't deserve it, you will regret it later.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You need to be by yourself today and the only way you can do that is to put a barrier between you and negative people.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. This is a good time to approach people in positions of authority, especially if you need support.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You can accomplish almost anything you want to, but you've got to look confident.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. What you want more than anything today is financial stability. How can you make your talents pay?

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. If a loved one makes a silly mistake today don't make a big issue of it.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. With mind planet Mercury at odds with Saturn in your sign, you could easily fall into the trap of thinking that something is important when it really doesn't matter at all.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Give as much of yourself as you can today. Be generous to those you love and to those whose words and activities rub you the wrong way.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. This is a good time to deal with issues on the home front.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. If you have done something wrong, now is the time to apologize. The planets will help you to find just the right words.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. There is no such thing as something for nothing – ever. Keep that simple truth in front of you today and you won't go far wrong.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Do what you can to help someone in need today but keep your distance emotionally.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"I have a coupon — 50 per cent off full body waxing for two!"
Arushi

WONG MAYE-E/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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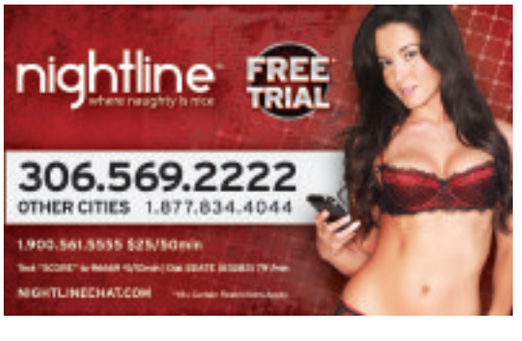

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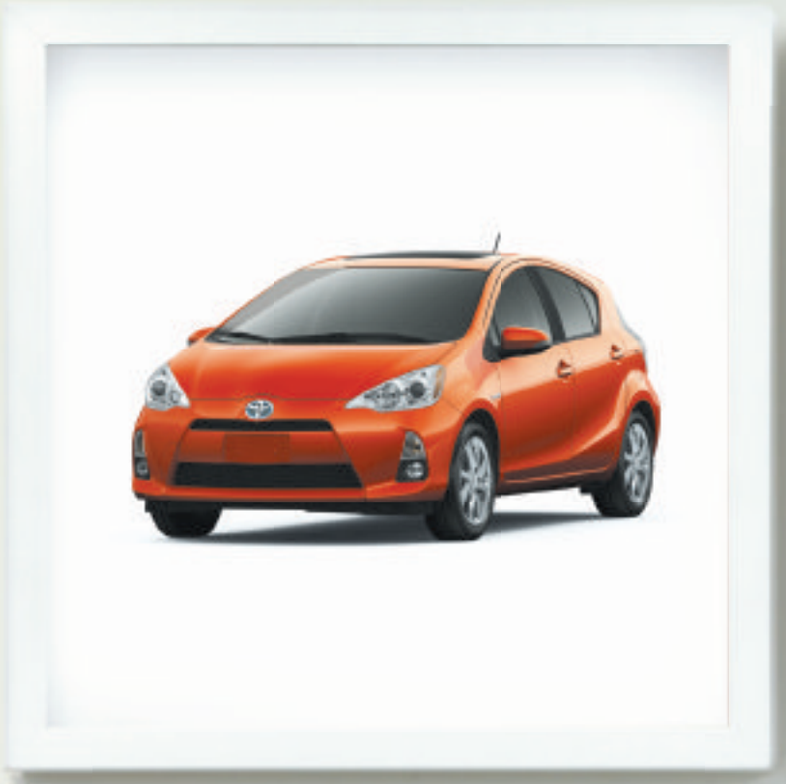

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